

**As Reported by the Senate State and Local Government and  
Veterans Affairs Committee**

**129th General Assembly  
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**S. B. No. 21**

**Senator Wagoner**

**Cosponsors: Senators Cafaro, Grendell, Manning, Seitz, Patton, Sawyer,  
Gillmor, Schaffer, Brown**

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**A B I L L**

To request the Congressional Joint Committee on the 1  
Library of Congress to approve the replacement of 2  
Ohio's statue of Governor William Allen in the 3  
National Statuary Hall Collection with a statue of 4  
Thomas Edison. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** (A) The state of Ohio requests that the Joint 6  
Committee on the Library of Congress approve the replacement of 7  
Ohio's statue of Governor William Allen in the National Statuary 8  
Hall Collection with a statue of Thomas Edison. 9

(B) In accordance with the Procedure for Replacement of 10  
Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection, Ohio submits the 11  
following information for consideration by the Joint Committee on 12  
the Library of Congress: 13

(1) Thomas Edison, a native of Milan, Ohio, was a world 14  
famous inventor and highly successful businessperson whose 15  
inventions, such as the phonograph, the kinetoscope (a precursor 16  
to the film projector), and the first practical incandescent light 17  
bulb, have had a tremendous impact on the world. In addition to 18

these inventions, Thomas Edison's service to the United States 19  
Government has also impacted world history. During World War I, he 20  
consulted for the government, examining inventions submitted for 21  
military use and working on defensive devices for submarines and 22  
ships. For his service, he eventually was awarded a Distinguished 23  
Service Medal by the Department of the Navy. By the time of his 24  
death, he had received over one thousand patents. 25

Thomas Edison also has had a significant impact on the state 26  
of Ohio. He established the Edison Steel Company in Cleveland, 27  
Ohio, and established one of the first electric power stations in 28  
Tiffin, Ohio. His General Electric Company established the first 29  
industrial park in Ohio, which has employed hundreds of thousands 30  
of people over time. And the Ohio Department of Development 31  
sponsors The Thomas Edison Award, which was established in 32  
partnership with the Edison Birthplace Museum in Milan, Ohio. The 33  
Edison Birthplace Museum also has been instrumental in the 34  
issuance of a Thomas Edison stamp and commemorative silver dollar, 35  
and has received, on Thomas Edison's behalf, a posthumously 36  
awarded GRAMMY Award. 37

Thomas Edison's impact on the world, and, in particular, on 38  
the state of Ohio, through his inventions, business endeavors, and 39  
government service, merits inclusion of a statue of him in the 40  
National Statuary Hall Collection. 41

(2) The Ohio Statuary Hall Commission, a nonprofit Ohio 42  
corporation, was established in 2009 for the purpose of assisting 43  
with the process of recommending an Ohio citizen for statuary 44  
representation in the National Statuary Hall Collection, including 45  
raising funds and providing financial support for that effort. If 46  
the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress approves this 47  
replacement statue request, the Commission shall be responsible 48  
for the selection of a sculptor for the Thomas Edison statue as 49  
well as for paying all costs incurred for placing the Thomas 50

Edison statue in the United States Capitol, including costs	51
incurred for all of the following:	52
(a) Paying the sculptor;	53
(b) Carving or casting the statue;	54
(c) Creating a pedestal and any inscription;	55
(d) Transporting the statue and pedestal to the United States Capitol;	56 57
(e) Removing and transporting the replaced statue;	58
(f) Temporarily erecting the new statue in the Rotunda of the Capitol for the unveiling ceremony;	59 60
(g) Expenses related to the unveiling ceremony; and	61
(h) Any other expenses that the Ohio Statuary Hall Commission finds it to be necessary to incur.	62 63
(C) As required by the Procedure for Replacement of Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection, the Governor shall submit to the Architect of the Capitol a copy of this act, along with a letter from the Governor, requesting approval from the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to replace Ohio's statue of Governor William Allen in the National Statuary Hall Collection with a statue of Thomas Edison.	64 65 66 67 68 69 70